

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20 Canceled.

21. (currently amended) A method for ~~facilitating maintaining~~ communication over ~~first and second disjoint networks between at least first and second computing devices, a node and a~~ second computing device comprising a mobile system computing device different from the node, the method comprising:

using a first data-network identifier identifying to identify the node first computing device, to communicate communicating over a first network between the node first computing device and said second, mobile system computing device different from the node;

sending, to the second, mobile system computing device over the first network, at least one further data-network identifier for use in at least in part identifying the node first computing device on at least a second network disjoint from the first network, said at least one further data-network identifier being at least in part different from said first data-network identifier; and

using the at least one further data-network identifier to identify the first computing device, communicating communicate between the mobile system first and second computing devices and the node over the second network, thereby

allowing communications between the first and second computing devices to continue even though said network identifier changes.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 further including authenticating the second, mobile system computing device for authorization to communicate with the ~~node~~ first computing device over the second network before sending the further ~~data~~ network identifier to the second, mobile system computing device over the first network.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein ~~said the~~ sending comprises sending distributed interface data to the second, mobile system computing device over the first network.

24. (currently amended) ~~A network as in~~ The method of claim 21 wherein further including physically attaching a network interface adapter associated with said second, mobile system computing device ~~comprises a network interface adapter that is~~ physically attached to at least one of said first network and said second network.

25. (currently amended) ~~A network as in~~ The method of claim 21 wherein said first network ~~comprises provides~~ a network point of attachment, and said communicating over the first network comprises establishing wireless communications between said second, mobile system computing device ~~communicates wirelessly~~ with and the network point of attachment.

26. (currently amended) ~~A method process~~ for providing communications between mobile computing systems and a network ~~node computing system~~ different

~~from said mobile computing systems as the mobile computing systems roam between a plurality of plural disjoint network~~network segments, comprising:

establishing communications between the mobile computing systems and the network ~~node computing system~~ via a first network segment;

sending the mobile computing systems, via the first network segment, network identifier information for use in communicating with said network ~~node computing system~~ via plural further network segments, at least some of ~~which are~~said plural further network segments being disjoint from the first network segment;

using said network identifier information to communicate between the mobile computing systems and the network ~~node computing system~~ via any of said plural further, ~~disjoint, network~~ segments; and

conditioning access to communications over ~~said at least some of said plural further disjoint networks~~network segments with said network ~~node computing system~~ and protecting at least some of said plural further disjoint network segments from unauthorized communications based at least in part on said network identifier information.

27. (currently amended) The process of claim 26 wherein said network identifier information comprises distributed interface data.

28-29 (Canceled)

30. (currently amended) The process of claim 26 further including authenticating at least some of the mobile computing systems for authorization to communicate with the ~~node network computing system~~ over at least one of said plural further disjoint

network segments before sending the further ~~data-network identifier information~~ to the ~~node-network computing system~~.

31. (currently amended) The process of claim 26 wherein said mobile ~~computing systems each comprises~~ comprise a network interface adapter physically ~~attached~~ attachable to at least one of said ~~plural disjoint-further~~ network segments.

32. (currently amended) The process of claim 26 wherein at least a first of said mobile ~~computing systems~~ shares ~~its~~ at least one interface address with each of said plural ~~further disjoint-network~~ segments so that if the first mobile ~~computing system~~ roams into any one of the ~~plural further disjoint-network~~ segments and detects that it has roamed onto a different network segment, the first mobile ~~end-computing system~~ selects an applicable network address to communicate with the ~~node-network computing system~~ via said ~~disjoint-different~~ network segment into which said first mobile ~~end-computing system~~ has roamed.

33. (currently amended) The process of claim 32 wherein mobile ~~end computing system~~ selects said applicable network address based on a metric.

34. (previously presented) The process of claim 33 wherein said metric comprises speed.

35. (previously presented) The process of claim 33 wherein said metric comprises cost.

36. (previously presented) The process of claim 33 wherein said metric comprises availability.

37 (previously presented). The process of claim 33 wherein said metric comprises number of hops.

38. (currently amended) A system for facilitating communication over disjoint networks between ~~a node and a mobile system different from the~~ node ~~first and second network devices at least one of which is mobile,~~ the system comprising:

a first network;

~~a node~~ first network device coupled to the first network;

a second mobile system network device also coupled to the first network, ~~said mobile system being different from the node,~~ said second mobile network system device using at least a first network identifier data identifying the ~~node~~ first network device on the first network to communicate with the ~~node~~ first network device over the first network;

a data transmitter coupled to the first network, said data transmitter sending, to the second mobile system network device over the first network, a further network identifier data at least in part identifying the ~~node~~ first network device on at least a second network disjoint from the first network, said further network identifier data being at least in part different from said first network identifier data;

said second mobile system network device using the further data network identifier at least in part identifying the ~~node~~ first network device to communicate

with the ~~node-first network device~~ over the second, disjoint network, thereby allowing communications between the first and second network devices to be maintained and to continue even though a network identifier said second network device uses to reach said first network device has changed.

39. (currently amended) The system of claim 38 further comprising means ~~for authenticating an authenticator that authenticates the second mobile system network device~~ for authorization to communicate with the ~~node-first network device~~ over the second network before sending the further ~~data-network identifier~~ to the ~~second mobile system device~~.

40. (currently amended) The system of claim 38 wherein the further ~~data network identifier~~ comprises distributed interface data.

41. (currently amended) The system as in claim 38 wherein said ~~second mobile system device~~ comprises a network interface adapter that is physically attached to said first network.

42. (currently amended) The system as in claim 38 wherein the data transmitter comprises a network point of attachment, and said ~~second mobile system device~~ communicates wirelessly with the network point of attachment.

43. (currently amended) A system for ~~providing-maintaining~~ communications between mobile computing systems and a network ~~node device~~ different from said ~~mobile computing systems~~ as the mobile computing systems roam between a plurality of ~~plural disjoint-networks~~ network segments, comprising:

a first network segment that establishes communications between mobile computing systems and the network ~~node~~device;

a data transmitter that sends the mobile computing systems, via the first network segment, identifying information for use in reaching said network ~~node~~device via plural further network segments at least some of which are disjoint from the first network segment;

said mobile computing systems using said identifying information to communicate with the network ~~node~~device via at least a disjoint one of said plural further, ~~disjoint~~ network segments; and

a policy manager that conditions access to communications with said network device over said at least some of said ~~disjoint~~plural further networks ~~network segments~~ with said network node and protects at least some of said ~~disjoint~~plural further network segments from unauthorized communications based at least in part on said identifying information.

44. (currently amended) The system of claim 43 wherein said identifying information comprises distributed interface data.

45. (currently amended) The process of claim 43 further including an authenticator that authenticates ~~the~~ at least one of the mobile systems for authorization to communicate with the ~~node~~network device over at least one of said ~~disjoint~~plural further network segments before sending the identifying information to the at least one mobile system.

46. (currently amended) The process of claim 43 wherein at least one of said mobile systems comprises a network interface adapter physically attached to at least one of said ~~disjoint-plural further~~ network segments.

47. (currently amended) The process of claim 43 wherein at least one of said mobile systems shares an interface address with each of said plural ~~disjoint-further~~ network segments so that if the at least one mobile system roams into any one of the ~~disjoint-plural further~~ network segments and detects that it has roamed-onto-a-different network-segment, the at least one mobile end system selects an appropriate network address to communicate with the ~~node-network device~~ via said ~~disjoint-plural further~~ network segment into which said at least one mobile end-system has roamed.

48. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~43-47~~ wherein at least one mobile end-system selects said network address based on a metric.

49. (previously presented) The process of claim 48 wherein said metric comprises speed.

50. (previously presented) The process of claim 48 wherein said metric comprises cost.

51. (previously presented) The process of claim 48 wherein said metric comprises availability.

52. (previously presented) The process of claim 48 wherein said metric comprises number of hops.

53 (New). The method of claim 21 wherein said first and further network identifiers comprise network addresses, and wherein using the at least one further network identifier comprises using said further network address instead of said first

network address to reach said first computing device via the second network, wherein said first and second disjoint networks do not share network address information therebetween.

54 (New). The process of claim 26 further including maintaining continued communications between said mobile computing systems and said network computing system even though said mobile computing systems use different network addresses to reach said network computing system via said plural further network segments, wherein said first network segment and said plural further network segments do not share network address information therebetween.

55 (New). The system of claim 38 wherein said first and second identifiers comprise addresses, and said second network device uses the further network address instead of the first network address to reach said first network device over the second network, wherein said first and second networks are disjoint and do not share network address information therebetween.

56 (New). The system of claim 42 wherein said mobile computing systems maintain continued communications with said network device via said plural, further network segments even though said mobile computing systems use different network addresses to reach said network device via said plural further network segments, wherein said first and plural further network segments do not share network address information therebetween.